

Interview Summary
Engine Room Fire
on the Small Passenger Vessel
MASSACHUSETTS
Near Boston, Massachusetts
On June 12, 2006
(DCA06MM016)

Witness: Ms. Lauren Coughlin, Contract Manager with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) responsible for vessel services.
Phone 617-222-3773

Date: June 20-21, 2006

Location: Telephone Interview

Persons present: W. R. Mr. Woody, NTSB

Ms. Coughlin stated that she was employed by the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) and was responsible for contracting with vessel owners to operate their vessel on scheduled ferry routes to meet the needs of commuters in the Boston area. She stated that MBTA operates ferry services on three different routes using contract vessels. The three routes: (1) Quincy – Hull -- Logan Airport – Boston, (2) Hingham Shipyard – Rowes Wharf, and (3) Long Wharf Boston -- Charlestown Navy Yard.

Ms. Coughlin stated that MBTA has a contract with Harbor Cruises, LLC to provide ferry services, and that Harbor Cruises had a contract with Massachusetts Bay Line, owner of the vessel MASSACHUSETTS, for that vessel to provide ferry service between Rowes Wharf and Hingham Shipyard.

The contract with Harbor Cruises originally required Harbor Cruises to provide 5 vessels for the ferry services and to maintain one other vessel in a standby status to be available in case of a casualty to any on the operating vessels. Because of reduced rider-ship the contractor had been allowed to reduce the number of operating vessels from five to four vessels, plus one standby vessel. The contract requires that the vessel maintained in standby will become available for service within four hours.

She stated that the M/V LAURA belonged to Harbor Cruises and that the vessels were normally in communications with each other and were familiar with the routes of the other vessels, and that this had aided in facilitating the arrangements for transfer of the passengers from the MASSACHUSETTS to the LAURA.

